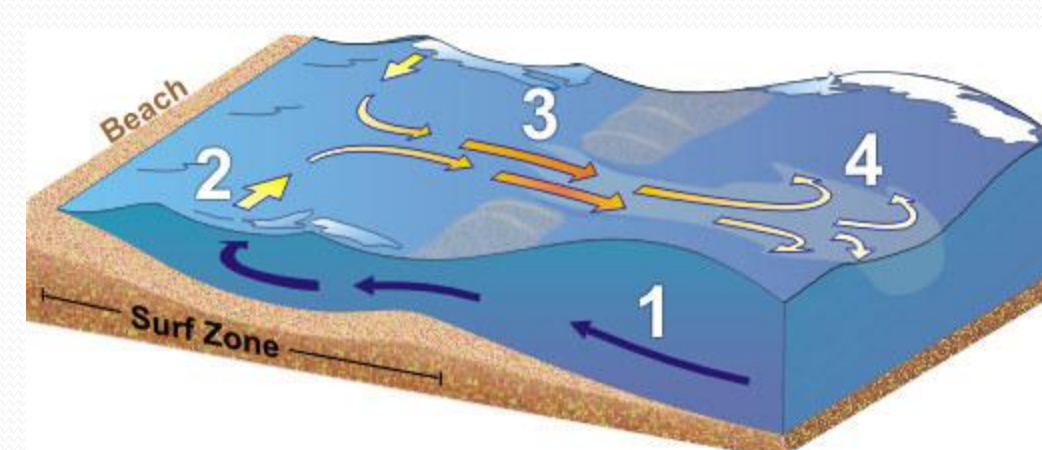


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# RIP CURRENTS: "BREAK THE GRIP OF THE RIP!"

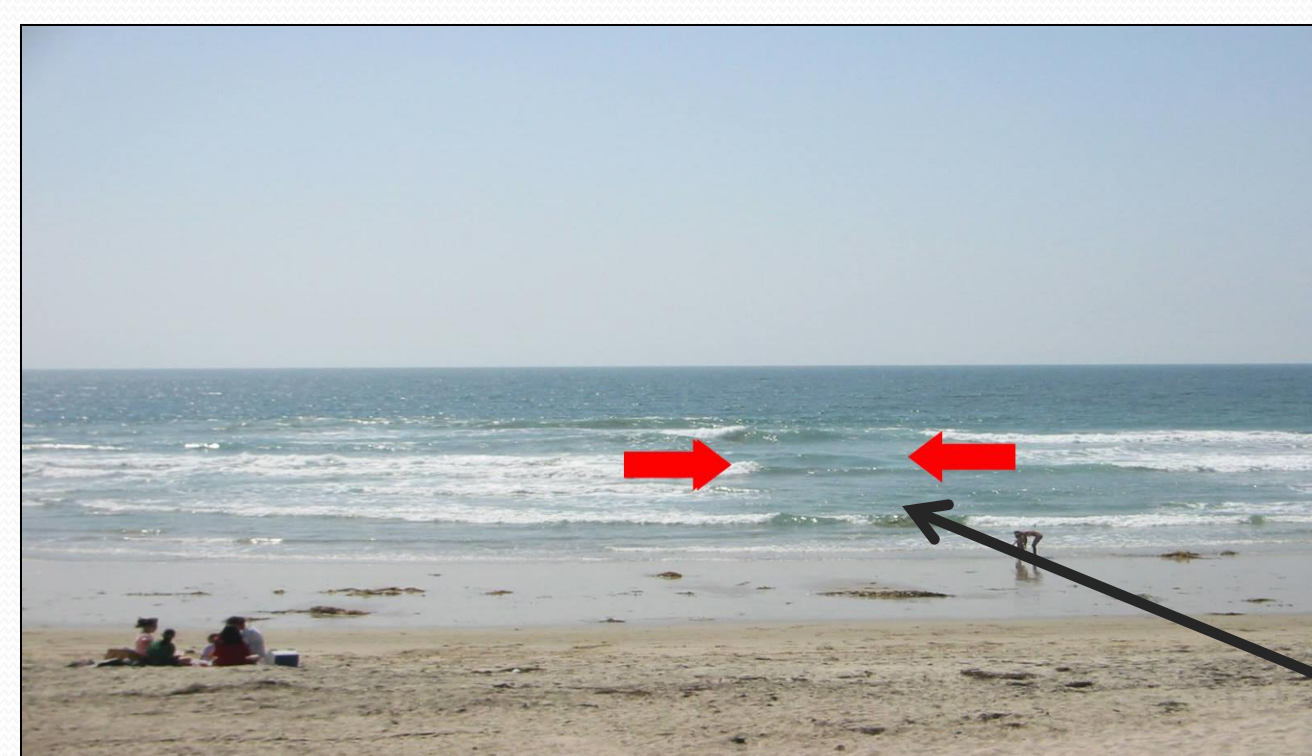
## What is a Rip Current and What to look for?



**Rip currents** are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from shore. They typically extend from the shoreline, through the surf zone, and past the line of breaking waves. Rip currents can occur at any beach with breaking waves. Rip currents account for over 80% of lifeguard rescues.



- A channel of choppy, churning water
- Line of foam or debris moving seaward
- Break in the incoming wave pattern
- Area having a notable difference in water color

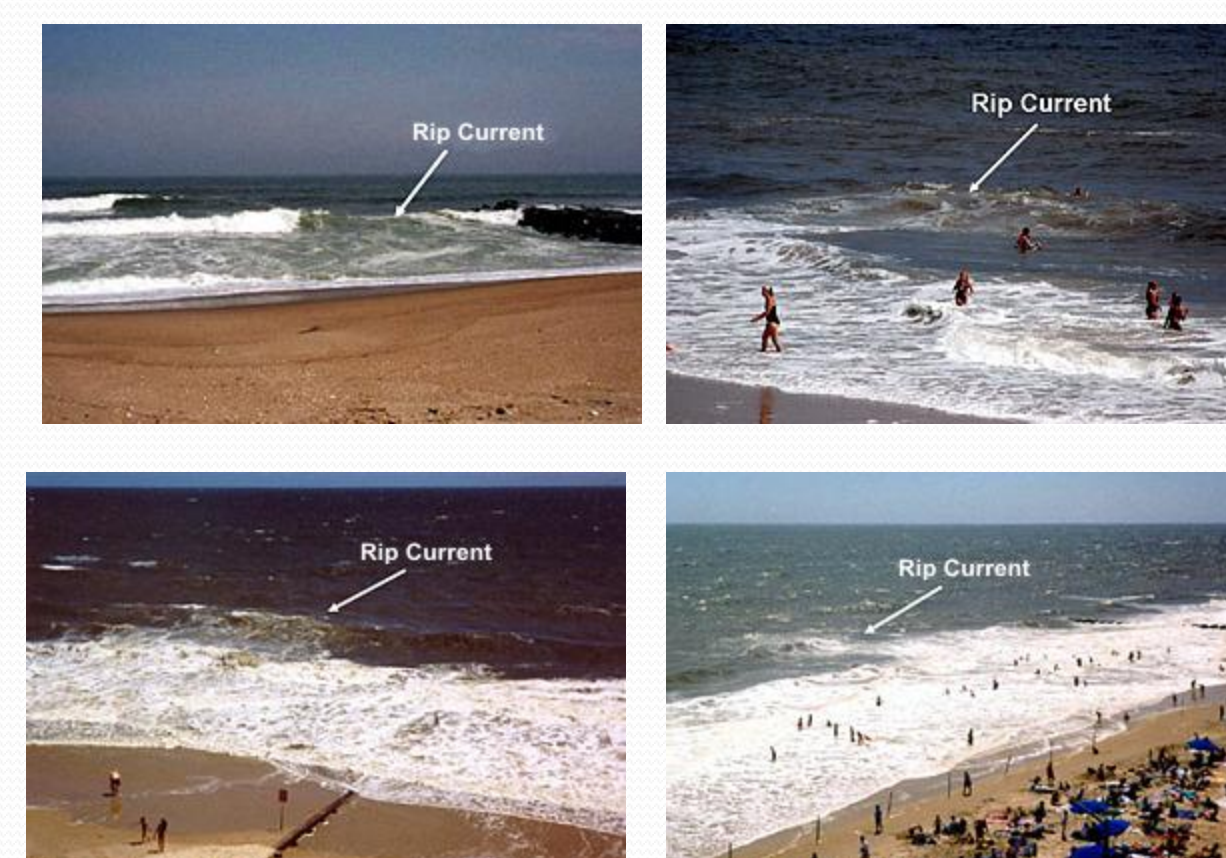


Rip Currents Can Develop At Any Time ...even on Sunny Days !

Rip Current Channels after storm systems have long been gone may continue for weeks or even months !

## How to find out more about Rip Currents

- Watch for Signs
- Talk to On-Duty Lifeguards
- Don't go into the water alone
- Swim near lifeguards



- Signs of a Rip Current include:
- Breaks in waves
  - Band of bubbles/sea foam extending away from the beach

NWS JAX issues Surf Zone Forecasts with an outlook based on 3 tiered qualifiers: low, moderate, or high.

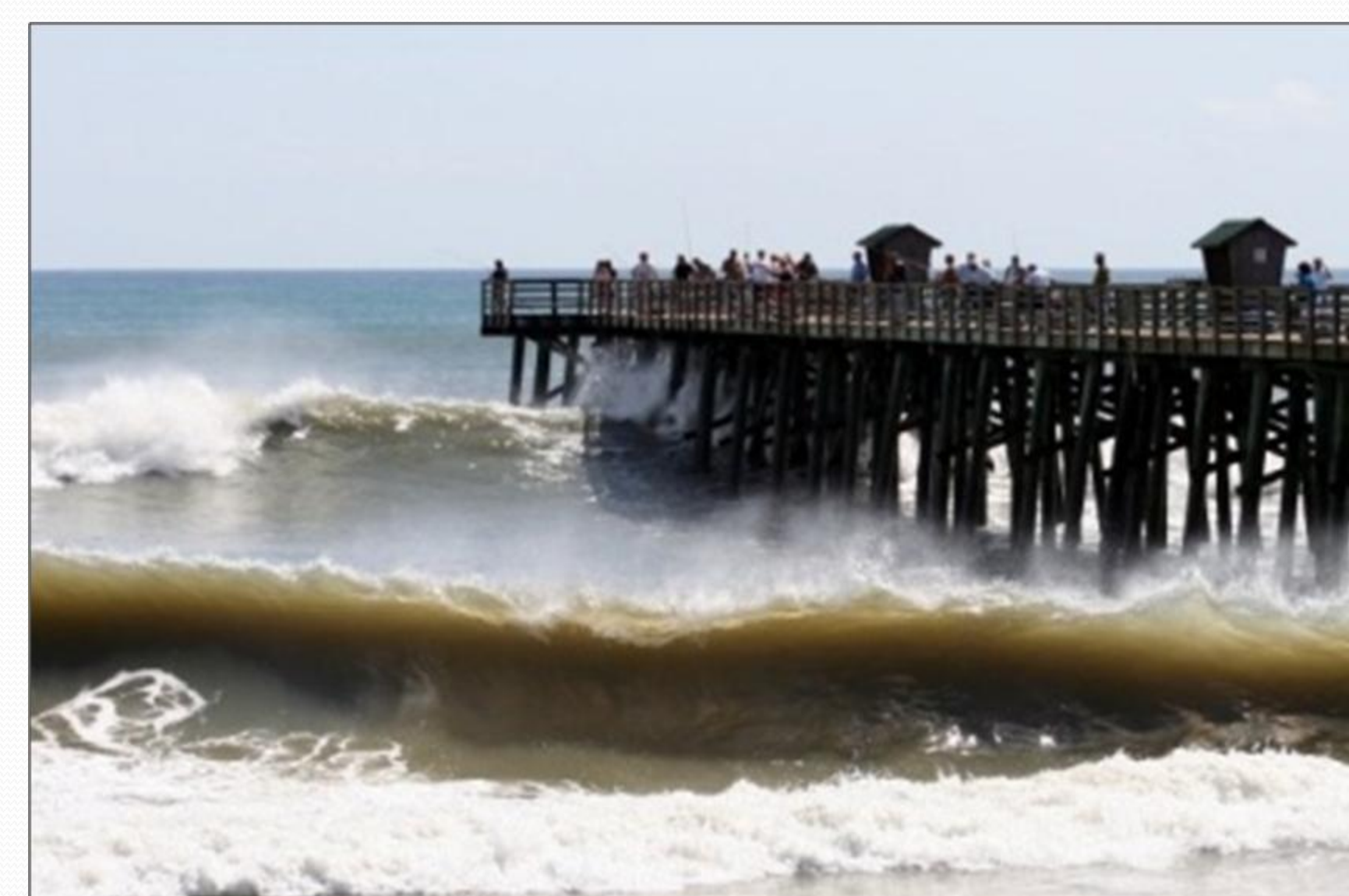
<http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov>

### EXAMPLE:

**RIP CURRENT OUTLOOK: MODERATE. A MODERATE RISK OF RIP CURRENTS MEANS WIND AND/OR WAVE CONDITIONS SUPPORT STRONGER OR MORE FREQUENT RIP CURRENTS. ONLY EXPERIENCED SURF SWIMMERS SHOULD ENTER THE WATER. IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT...SWIM PARALLEL OR AT AN ANGLE TO SHORE UNTIL YOU FEEL THE CURRENT WEAKENING. ONCE THE CURRENT WEAKENS...SWIM TOWARD SHORE IN A RELAXED MANNER. IF LIFEGUARDS ARE VISIBLE...WAVE YOUR ARMS AND YELL FOR HELP.**

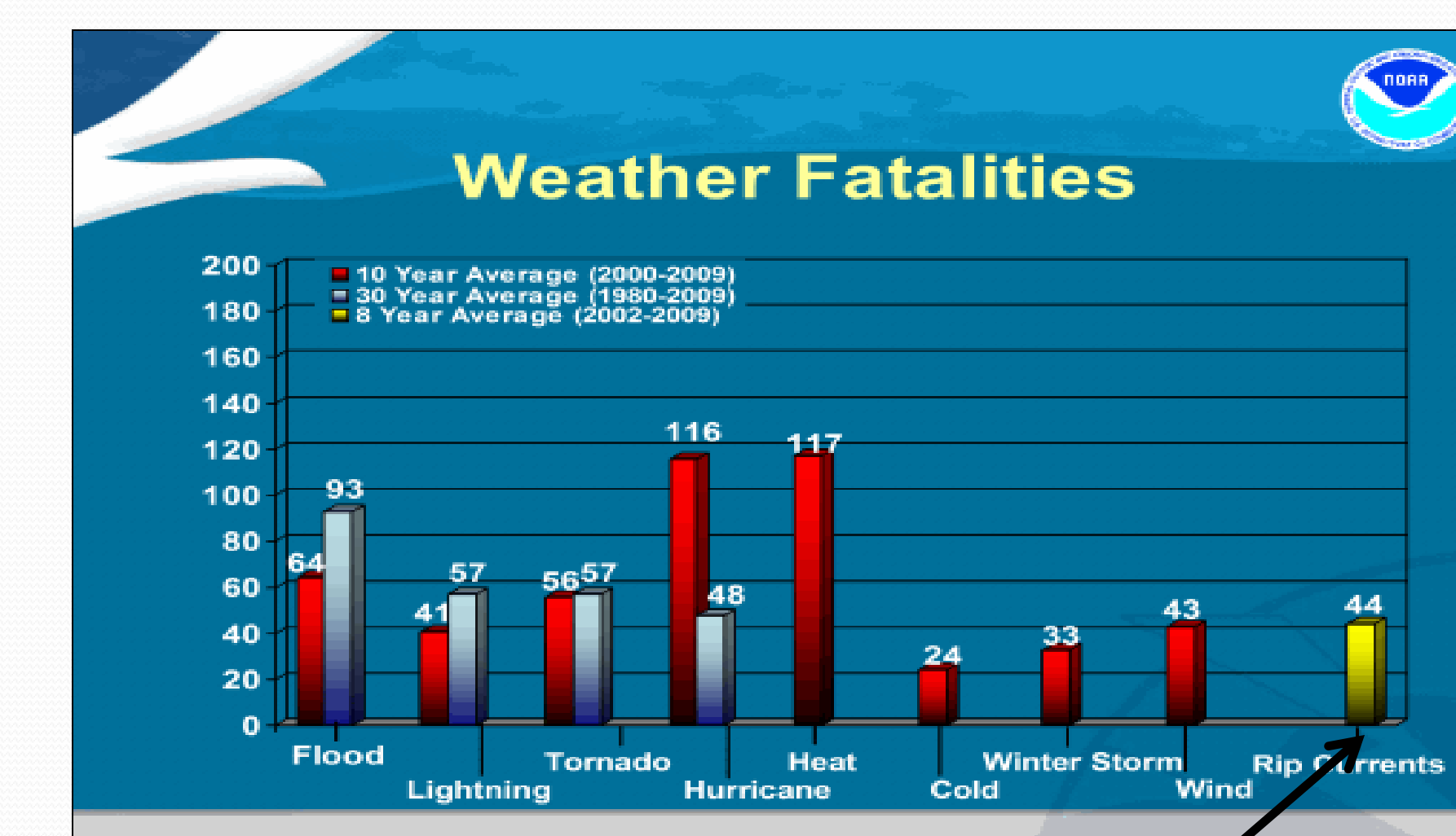
**WIND: SOUTHEAST 15 MPH AND GUSTY THIS AFTERNOON.**

**SURF: BREAKERS WILL AVERAGE 3 TO 5 FEET.**



High Surf Advisories are issued when breakers are 7 feet or more

## Surviving a Rip Current



Rip currents account for at least 40 fatalities each year. In 2008, almost 70 people drowned in rip currents.

